

Blue Ribbon Commission

Minutes

January 13, 2020 4:00 PM
Historic Metropolitan Courthouse
One Public Square Suite 205
Committee Room 2 Nashville, TN 37201

Members Present: VM Jim Shulman, CM Bob Mendes, CM Gloria Hausser, Chair Dave Goetz, Gracie Porter, Patrick Green, Margaret Darby, and Brad Rayson. Attending on behalf of Mayor Cooper: Kristin Wilson. Attending for Finance Dept.: Talia Lomax-O'dneal.

Members Absent: Emily Evans, DJ Wootson and Tracy Kane

The meeting was called to order by Chair Goetz at 4:00 PM CST. The Chair notified the public of their appeal rights.

Per the published Agenda:

1. Call to Order, Notice of Appeal Rights
The meeting was called to order by Chair Goetz at 4:00PM CST. The Chair notified the public of their appeal rights.
2. Approval of Minutes from December 12, 2019
Draft minutes were unanimously approved without amendment.
3. FY 2021 Budget Message – Kristin Wilson
Ms. Wilson detailed the budget process contained in the Budget Message from Finance Director Kevin Crumbo and herself. She noted changes in both timeline and content, with the administration submitting its budget by 3/31/2020. The administration is asking the Council to finalize the budget by 5/31 so that it may be sent to the State Comptroller for his review. Baseline budgets will assume no 'targeted savings' in an effort to get budgets on a recurring basis. Investment requests for budget increases will require a cost/benefit analysis, supported by a newly established Performance Management Team. Commission members discussed how this timetable requires the BRC to provide any input for the next budget by late February/early March so it may be considered by the administration. In particular any recommendations on tourism costs and revenues that require support need to be focused to meet that time frame. If the BRC has further recommendations they may be included in the Council deliberations if submitted timely.
4. FY 2021 Council Process – CM Mendes
CM Mendes outlined how as Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee he will ask the Council to 'do our best' to meet the accelerated timeline. He outlined a tentative schedule (attached) starting with community meetings in February and proposing to finish the budget by 5/21/2020. He said this may require focusing on the larger departments.
5. Tourism Analysis and Discussion
 - a. Memo from Emily Evans
BRC members noted and briefly discussed Ms. Evans proposed approach on analysis and

recommendations. Discussed was how to better understand the costs of supporting both special events and the ongoing personnel and infrastructure costs associated with Nashville's tourism industry. Ms. Wilson agreed to help get more information on costs.

- b. Materials on tourism revenue structure
Ms. Darby handed out a brief summary of the different revenue sources currently supporting tourism costs and debt service. CM Mendes noted the need to have more informative footnotes of allowed use. Also the BRC discussed the need for clear revenue numbers from the last three years. Ms. Lomax-O'dneal agreed to provide that information.
 - c. Proposed survey of other cities – not discussed.
6. Review of recommendations to BRC
Chair Goetz offered to further provide a proposed prioritization of the remaining recommendations to BRC members for any further additions or amendments.
7. Adjourn
There being no other business, the Commission adjourned at 4:50PM.